Serial No.: 10/647,645 Response to Office Action

Docket No. 1009.13 Customer No. 53953

## **REMARKS**

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Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 8-11, 13-16, 23, 24, and 26-28 have been amended. Claims 1-28 are pending.

The most recent Office Action rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Office Action stated that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims.

For these reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 and 16

Dependent claims 2-15 depend from and further limit claim 1 and therefore are allowable.

Dependent claims 17-28 depend from and further limit claim 16 and therefore are allowable.

To the extent that this Response to Office Action results in additional fees, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account no. 50-3524.

An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-28 is requested.

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Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. If any unresolved aspect remains, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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